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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,311	08/30/2001	Peter D. J. Dennis	SUN-P6268-PIP	2172
22835	7590	08/26/2004	EXAMINER	
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP 508 SECOND STREET SUITE 201 DAVIS, CA 95616			FOWLKES, ANDRE R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2122	

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/944,311	Applicant(s) DENNIS ET AL.	
	Examiner Andre R. Fowlkes	Art Unit 2122	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by applicants admitted prior art, (AAPA), in the background section of the instant application. The PG PUB application paragraph and line numbers are used to cite the AAPA reference.

As per claim 1, AAPA discloses **a method to facilitate debugging computer code within an operating system kernel** (¶ 0006:1-4, “In an effort to provide debugging capabilities for the operating system kernel, engineers have created a modular debugger, which can facilitate debugging the operating system kernel”), **comprising:**

- receiving a source file containing a data structure definition (¶ 0007:3-5, “examines the source files of the operating system kernel to determine the data structures within the kernel”),

- **searching the source file for the data structure definition** (§ 0007:3-5, “examines the source files of the operating system kernel to determine the data structures within the kernel”),

- **upon finding the data structure definition, saving the data structure definition in a storage structure** (§ 0006:7-8, “this gathered data can then be saved in the computer system’s memory”),

- **generating a new source code to display a data structure, wherein the new source code is created using the data structure definition** (§ 0006:5-10, “(generating new) ... source code, which is custom designed, (per the data structure definition), to gather data for the data structures within the operating system (and) ... display or print the gathered data”),

- **compiling the new source code into an executable module; installing the executable module into a modular debugger** (§ 0008:1-5, “after creating this source code, the operator compiles the source code into an executable module , which is then inserted into the modular debugger”),

- **during execution of the modular debugger, displaying a content of the data structure to a user of the modular debugger using the executable module, whereby the user is able to view the content of the data structure** (§ 0008:3-5, “(the modular debugger is operable) to gather data from the data structures within the kernel while the kernel is executing”, and § 0008:7-10, “This gathered data can then be ... display(ed)”).

As per claim 2, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated and further, AAPA discloses that **receiving the source file includes receiving a plurality of source files** (¶ 0007:3-5, "examines the source files of the operating system kernel to determine the data structures within the kernel").

As per claim 3, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated and further, AAPA discloses that **the source file contains a plurality of data structures** (¶ 0006:5-10, to gather data for the data structures within the operating system (and) ... display or print the gathered data").

As per claim 4, the rejection of claim 3 is incorporated and further, AAPA discloses that **saving the data structure definition in the storage structure includes saving the plurality of data structures in the storage structure** (¶ 0007:3-5, "examines the source files of the operating system kernel to determine the data structures within the kernel", and ¶ 0006:7-8, "this gathered data (structures) can then be saved in the computer system's memory").

As per claim 5, the rejection of claim 3 is incorporated and further, AAPA discloses that **generating the new source code includes: examining the plurality of data structures in the storage structure to locate a cross-reference between data structures; and generating the new source code for the plurality of data structures** (¶ 0007:3-5, "examines the source files of the operating system kernel to

determine the data structures within the kernel”, and ¶ 0006:5-10, “(generating new) ... source code, which is custom designed, (per the data structures and reference data), to gather data for the data structures within the operating system”).

As per claim 6, the rejection of claim 5 is incorporated and further, AAPA discloses that **generating the new source code includes generating source code to walk a linked list of data structures** (¶ 0006:5-10, “(generating new) ... source code, which is custom designed, to gather data (by walking through) the data structures (i.e. linked list of data structures”).

As per claim 7, the rejection of claim 6 is incorporated and further, AAPA discloses that **displaying the content of the data structure includes displaying the content of the linked list of data structures** (¶ 0006:5-10, “(generating new) ... source code, which is custom designed, (per the data structures and reference data), to gather data for the data structures (i.e. linked list of data structures) within the operating system (and) ... display or print the gathered data”).

As per claim 8, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated and further, AAPA discloses that **the data structure definition includes one of a tree, a linked list, a doubly linked list, and a queue** (¶ 0006:6, “data structures (i.e. trees, linked lists, doubly linked lists, queues”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 9-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants admitted prior art, (AAPA), in the background section of the instant application in view of Vazquez et al., (Vazquez), U.S. Patent No. 6,763,515.

As per claim 9, AAPA discloses **a method to facilitate debugging computer code within an operating system kernel** (§ 0006:1-4, "In an effort to provide debugging capabilities for the operating system kernel, engineers have created a modular debugger, which can facilitate debugging the operating system kernel"), **comprising:**

- **receiving a source file containing a data structure definition** (§ 0007:3-5, "examines the source files of the operating system kernel to determine the data structures within the kernel"),

- **searching the source file for the data structure definition** (§ 0007:3-5, "examines the source files of the operating system kernel to determine the data structures within the kernel"),

- upon finding the data structure definition, saving the data structure definition in a storage structure (§ 0006:7-8, "this gathered data can then be saved in the computer system's memory"),

- generating a new source code to display a data structure, wherein the new source code is created using the data structure definition (§ 0006:5-10, "(generating new) ... source code, which is custom designed, (per the data structure definition), to gather data for the data structures within the operating system (and) ... display or print the gathered data"),

- compiling the new source code into an executable module; installing the executable module into a modular debugger (§ 0008:1-5, "after creating this source code, the operator compiles the source code into an executable module , which is then inserted into the modular debugger"),

- during execution of the modular debugger, displaying a content of the data structure to a user of the modular debugger using the executable module, whereby the user is able to view the content of the data structure (§ 0008:3-5, "(the modular debugger is operable) to gather data from the data structures within the kernel while the kernel is executing", and § 0008:7-10, "This gathered data can then be ... display(ed)").

AAPA doesn't explicitly disclose **a computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform the algorithm listed above.**

However, Vazquez, in an analogous environment, discloses **a computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform** an algorithm (col. 4:7-8, "providing a system and method for automatically generating a program to perform an ... algorithm").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to incorporate the teachings of Vazquez into the system of AAPA to have a **computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform** an algorithm. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would want the use the well known technique of automating a manual algorithm using computer software, to attain speed and consistency.

As per claims 10-16, AAPA also discloses such claimed limitations as addressed in claims 2-8 above, respectively.


As per claims 17-24, AAPA also discloses such claimed limitations as addressed in claims 9-16 above, respectively.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre R. Fowlkes whose telephone number is (703)305-8889. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (703)305-4552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ARF


TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER